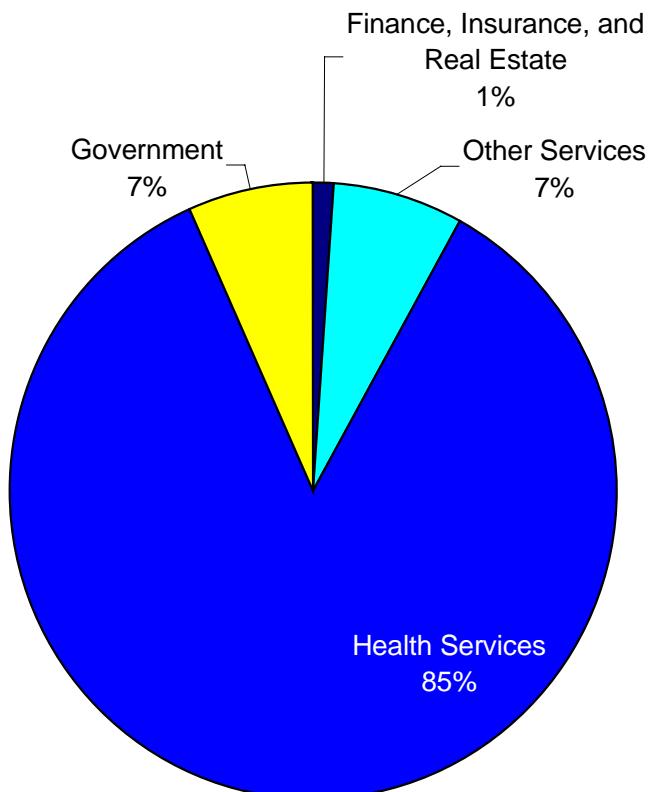


Job Description

Registered nurses (R.N.s) work to promote health, prevent disease, and help patients cope with illness. They are advocates and health educators for patients, families, and communities. When providing direct patient care, they observe, assess, and record symptoms, reactions, and progress; assist physicians during treatments and examinations; administer medications; and assist in convalescence and rehabilitation. R.N.s also develop and manage nursing care plans; instruct patients and their families in proper care; and help individuals and groups take steps to improve or maintain their health. While State laws govern the tasks R.N.s may perform, it is usually the work setting, which determines their day-to-day job duties. *Hospital nurses, office nurses, nursing home nurses, home health nurses, public health nurses, occupational health or industrial nurses, head nurses or nurse supervisors, nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, and certified nurse-midwives* are classified as advanced practice nurses and have met higher educational and clinical practice requirements beyond the basic nursing education and licensing required of all R.N.s.

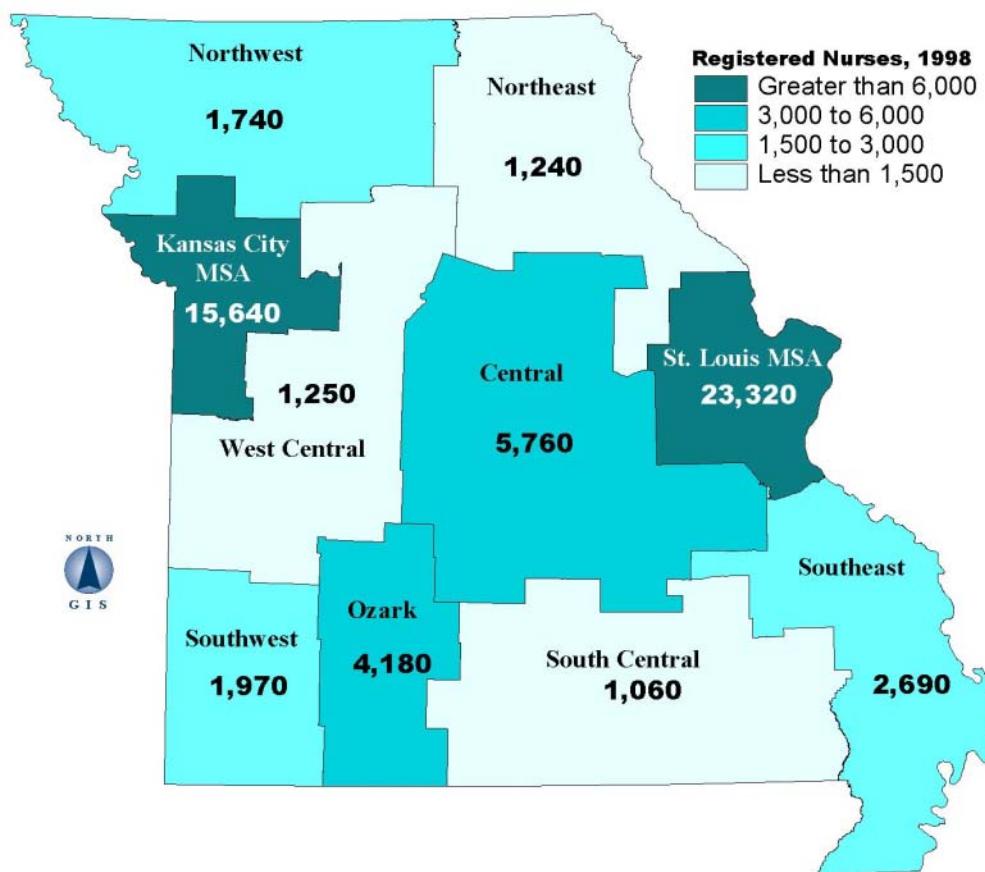
Employment by Industry



Employment Trends

Region	Employment		Projected Growth	Percent Change	Average Annual Openings
	1998	2008			
United States	2,079,000	2,530,000	451,000	22%	794,000
Missouri	49,340	57,200	7,860	16%	1,600
Northwest Region	1,740	2,060	320	18%	61
Northeast Region	1,240	1,430	190	15%	40
Kansas City MSA	15,640	17,780	2,140	14%	471
West Central Region	1,250	1,410	160	13%	37
Central Region	5,760	6,800	1,040	18%	199
St. Louis MSA	23,320	27,480	4,160	18%	801
Southwest Region	1,970	2,490	520	26%	85
Ozark Region	4,180	5,450	1,270	30%	196
South Central Region	1,060	1,270	210	20%	39
Southeast Region	2,690	3,140	450	17%	89

Source: Missouri Economic Research & Information Center, Projections Unit



Wage Information

Region	Average Hourly Wage	Average Annual Wage
United States	\$22.31	\$46,405
Missouri	\$20.07	\$41,746
Northwest Region	\$18.11	\$37,669
Northeast Region	\$17.91	\$37,253
Kansas City MSA	\$21.95	\$45,656
West Central Region	\$17.28	\$35,942
Central Region	\$18.59	\$38,667
St. Louis MSA	\$20.42	\$42,474
Southwest Region	\$18.67	\$38,834
Ozark Region	\$18.49	\$38,459
South Central Region	\$18.07	\$37,586
Southeast Region	\$17.05	\$35,464

Source: Missouri Economic Research & Information Center, Occupational Employment Statistics Unit

Registered Nurses make an average annual salary of \$41,746 in Missouri, which is about the average salary for all occupations in the state.

Typical Tasks

- Provides health care, first aid, and immunization.
- Observes computerized equipment to monitor vital signs.
- Records medical information.
- Administers local, inhalation, intravenous, and other anesthetics.
- Prepares for and assists with patient examinations.
- Orders, interprets, and evaluates diagnostic tests to identify and assess patient's condition.
- Prepares rooms, sterile instruments, equipment and supplies, and hands items to surgeon.
- Prescribes or recommends drugs or other forms of treatment.
- Contracts independently to render nursing care.
- Provides prenatal and postnatal care under supervision of obstetrician.
- Discusses cases with physician.
- Informs physician of patient's condition during anesthesia.
- Administers stipulated emergency measures, and contacts physician.
- Responsible for preventing contamination or infection.
- Instructs on health care topics.
- Develops health improvement programs.
- Delivers infants and performs postpartum examinations.
- Refers patients to community agencies furnishing other assistance.
- Conducts specified laboratory tests.
- Maintains stock of supplies.
- Directs and coordinates infection control programs.

Skills Needed

- Speaking
- Service Orientation
- Social Perceptiveness
- Judgment and Decision Making
- Reading Comprehension
- Coordination
- Critical Thinking
- Active Listening
- Problem Identification
- Writing

Preparation and Licensing Requirements

Possible Degrees

- Associate Degree (A.D.N.)
2 to three years at community/junior colleges
- Bachelor of Science (B.S.N.)
4+ years at college or university

Licensing

This occupation requires a license in Missouri. The Missouri State Board of Nursing gives the licensing exam to graduates of accredited nursing programs. A passing grade is required for licensure. Advanced practice nurses may have additional licensing requirements

Job Outlook

- Job opportunities for R.N.s are expected to be very good.
- Employment is expected to grow faster than the average for all occupations.
- Many new jobs will result.
- Thousands of job openings will come from the need to replace retiring nurses.

Faster than average growth will also be driven by technological advances in patient care, which permit a greater number of medical problems to be treated, and an increasing emphasis on preventive care. In addition, the number of older people, who are much more likely than younger people to need nursing care, is projected to grow rapidly.

For More Information

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Other Sources: *United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, Missouri CHOICES, O*Net.*